

# The Drug Factor

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## Office of Drug Control Policy

Prevention ~ Treatment ~ Enforcement

## What is Drugged Driving?

**Drugged driving is a dangerous activity that puts us all at risk (NIDA)**

### Upcoming Events

1/25—1/26/08

CAPTASA—Embassy Suites, Lexington

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the principal concern regarding drugged driving is that driving under the influence of any drug that acts on the brain could impair one's motor skills, reaction time, and judgment. In 12 states, (Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah and Wisconsin) it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle with any detectable level of a prohibited drug, or its metabolites, in the driver's blood. Other state laws define drugged driving as driving when a drug "renders the driver incapable of driving safely," or "causes the driver to be impaired."

In recent years, drugs that act on the brain have increasingly been recognized as hazards to road traffic safety. Research indicates that marijuana is the most prevalent illegal drug detected in impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers and motor vehicle crash victims. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that up to 22% of drivers involved in crashed have used drugs in combination with alcohol. A variety of drugs including benzodiazepines, cocaine, opiates and amphetamines have been identified in fatal and non-fatal motor vehicle crashes. Details of these reports can be found at [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov) and [www.nida.nih.gov](http://www.nida.nih.gov).



**Marijuana slows a driver's perception of time, space and distance.**

**Many scheduled drugs come with a warnings against the operation of machinery including vehicles.**

### Justice and Public Safety Cabinet

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## Facts about Drugged Driving

- ◆ Over 8 million persons aged 12 or older reported driving under the influence of illegal drugs during 2001.
- ◆ 12.7% of high school seniors reported driving under the influence of marijuana
- ◆ NHTSA reports that nearly 17,000 people are killed annually due to drunk or drugged driving
- ◆ Rates of drugged driving for aged 18 to 34 increased from 2000 to 2001.
- ◆ In a single month, 24 of 27 DUI cases in Martin District Court involved drugs, not alcohol.